

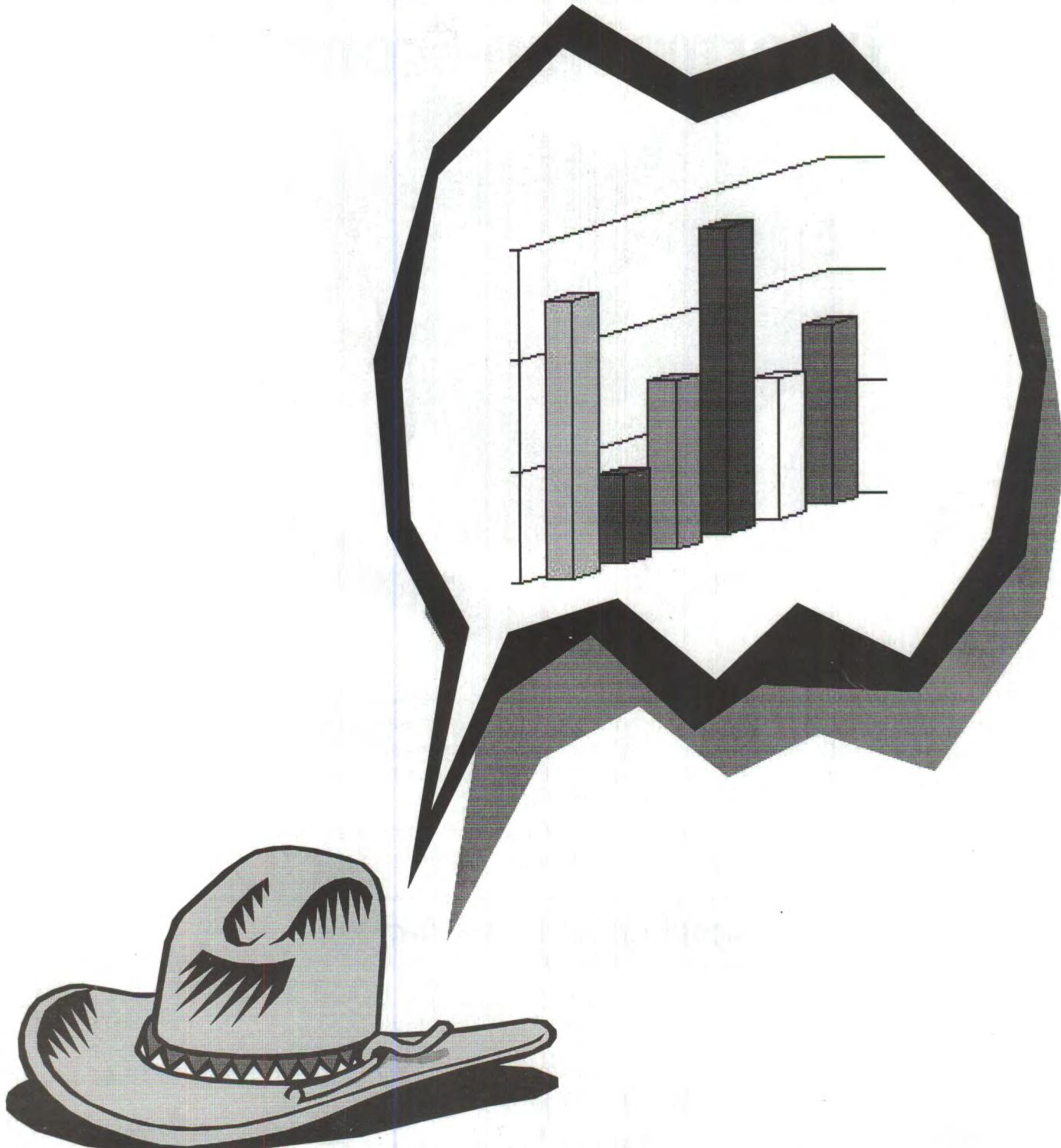
August 1998  
Vol 5 No 8

# extended attributes

The magazine of the OS/2 community

Phoenix  
OS/2  
Society

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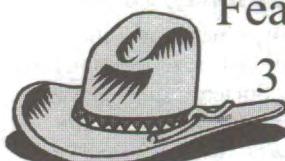
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Bill Schindler and Esther  
Schindler

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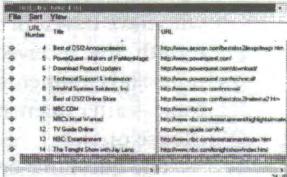
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## extended attributes

*extended attributes* is the award winning monthly magazine of the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.

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For change of address, send an email to editor@possi.org or mail the form in the center of the magazine to the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc. *extended attributes* is mailed at bulk rate—the US Post Office will not forward!

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## COMMENT A private affair

by Bill Schindler, Editor-in-chief

Sometimes I could swear the OS/2 community has developed telepathy. (Or maybe it's just Society members who have developed it.) In the past month, I've received several questions and comments about the same topic—after many months of silence on it.

The questions center around why we don't publish email IDs in the magazine or online.

The answer, in one word, is "privacy." We treat your email ID the same way we treat your phone number and address.

If an author doesn't explicitly tell us that it's okay to print his/her email ID, we don't print it. If you would like to send an email to the author, write to [editor@possi.org](mailto:editor@possi.org) and ask for your message to be forwarded. (Authors can explicitly request publication by including

their email ID in either their byline or their bio.)

Besides privacy, there's an additional reason we don't publish a list of members and email IDs on the Web site. Publishing email IDs on the Web—especially a list of email IDs—is an excellent way to guarantee yourself a *lot* of spam.

So, we work hard to ensure that we never publish phone numbers, addresses, or email IDs without permission. (We do slip up once in a while—we're only human, after all.)

While I'm on the topic: The Society has never shared its database with anyone. As it stands, I doubt that we ever will. It's just easiest to keep the database private, and we're really not in the business of sorting, filtering, and selling mailing lists.

## Happy birthday, POSSI!

It's August, which marks the anniversary of the founding of the Phoenix OS/2 Society. Four years ago this month, the Society had its first meeting and the first issue of *extended attributes* was hand delivered to the attendees.

We've come a long, long way in four years. The Society has come close to doubling in size with each anniversary. The membership went from Phoenix-centric to international. The newsletter became a magazine.

In the next year—with your help—the Society will continue to grow, prosper, and succeed.

Happy birthday! ☺

## Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc (POSSI) is an organization of computer users with an interest in IBM's OS/2 operating system.

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.  
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133  
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585  
Voice mail: 602-949-4341  
Web: <http://www.possi.org>

### President

Dick Krueger [president@possi.org](mailto:president@possi.org)

### Vice-president

Lee Baldwin [l Baldwin@primenet.com](mailto:l Baldwin@primenet.com)

### Treasurer

Stan Hall [srhall@ibm.net](mailto:srhall@ibm.net)

### Secretary

Judy McDermott [bri@gt-online.com](mailto:bri@gt-online.com)

### Program chair

Esther Schindler [esther@bitranch.com](mailto:esther@bitranch.com)

### Board member at large

Sam MacDonald [samemac@ibm.net](mailto:samemac@ibm.net)

### Membership officer

Evelyn Hitch [hitch@ibm.net](mailto:hitch@ibm.net)

## extended attributes

### Editor-in-chief

Bill Schindler [editor@possi.org](mailto:editor@possi.org)

### Assistant editors

Susan Malling [susan@perfectniche.com](mailto:susan@perfectniche.com)  
Esther Schindler [esther@bitranch.com](mailto:esther@bitranch.com)

### Reviews editor

Craig Greenwood [reviews@possi.org](mailto:reviews@possi.org)

### SIG news editor

Ernie Fisch [ernfisch@indirect.com](mailto:ernfisch@indirect.com)

### Contributing editors

David Both, Joel Frey, Craig Greenwood, Judy McDermott,  
Esther Schindler, John Wubbel

### Cartoonist

Ron Boe [ron.sueboe@sprintmail.com](mailto:ron.sueboe@sprintmail.com)

### Advertising manager

Frank Pizzo [fpizzo@ibm.net](mailto:fpizzo@ibm.net)

Advertisers: Contact Frank Pizzo for an advertising rate sheet, insertion order, and information on advertising in *extended attributes*.

# on the bitstream Statistical navel gazing

by Esther Schindler

OS/2 Warp 4 includes a feature which we've come to call the "registration elephant." It allows you to register your copy of OS/2 over the Internet, or via BBS or fax. The registration also asks several survey questions, such as where you use OS/2. The program promises to show up in another year, to ask more questions about your OS usage.

The registration elephant is a very good idea that, alas, was poorly implemented. Because the program consumes half a meg of RAM, while it's sitting around waiting for next year to happen, most of us have deleted it. Worse, I was told by an IBM employee (who was in a position to know) that nobody at IBM ever looks at those demographics.

Nonetheless, it's a good idea for the OS/2 community, and the Phoenix OS/2 Society, to know something about itself. At the very least, understanding the membership's background and opinions helps the board make better decisions about scheduling meetings and magazine topics. In a larger view, the knowledge can help the OS/2 development community fine-tune their products and marketing efforts.

I had the opportunity to collect information about the OS/2 community as a side effect of an article assignment for *Sm@rt Reseller*, when I reviewed four online survey software packages. I knew that the best way to test such applications was with real data. Surveys that ask five people, "What's your favorite flavor of chocolate?" don't push the software's capabilities.

Instead, I set out to survey the membership of the Phoenix OS/2 Society. I also decided to make the results more interesting by comparing POSSI members to:

- OS/2 users who don't belong to a user group, and
- other OS/2 user group members, i.e. the Southern California OS/2 User Group (SCOUG), plus
- user group members from non-OS/2 groups: the general-interest South Mountain User Group

(SMUG), and Computer Booters of Sun Lakes (CB). The latter is a small user group in a retirement community.

This plan didn't work quite as well as expected. SMUG and SCOUG members weren't as quick to respond, and the CB folks got involved so late that I had to provide a workaround for participation in the first survey. Plus, SCOUG and POSSI have so much membership overlap that the results weren't particularly distinct.

Nonetheless, I think you'll be interested in some of the results—as long as you keep in mind that these are relatively small samples, and that the participants are self-selected. This is far from a scientific survey, but it's more information than anybody else has collected recently.

## The executive summary

So who are we?

The typical member of the Society is male, 52 years old, and married. He's well educated, with post-graduate schooling behind his belt. His household income is between \$65,000 and \$95,000 per year.

He connects to the Internet several times a day, most likely via a modem connection. The member considers himself a PC expert, and is a technology enthusiast. He might work for a small company (under 25 employees) but he's just as likely to work for a large firm (500 or more employees). The likelihood of his job being related to the computer industry is 50-50.

Our typical member uses OS/2 Warp 4, though he uses or is responsible for other versions, too. He's been using OS/2 for 5-10 years, and has used PCs for more than ten years. OS/2 is used at home, plus very likely at work. He has purchased 6 OS/2 applications in the last year, 3 or 4 of which are shareware. In that period of time, he tried out 6 shareware applications. He bought one or two DOS or Windows 3.1 applications in the last year, and another one or two Windows 95/NT programs. He uses an

average of 2.8 operating systems, though OS/2 is his first choice.

The typical POSSI member is very satisfied with OS/2, and expects to be using the operating system next year. However, he's dissatisfied with IBM's support of OS/2—more so if he works for a large company.

The typical Society member reads the magazine every month, taking about a half hour to read the publication. He reads at least two or three other computing magazines, and at least two online publications.

## The data collection

I'm reporting on the results of three surveys. (A fourth was too lame to include. I think I was tired when I wrote it.) The user group demographic survey included 191 respondents, plus another 15 who were excluded because they indicated no user group affiliation. Several user group members belong to more than one group—the average is 1.35—but the statistics come out like this:

- POSSI: 135
- SMUG and/or CB: 29
- SCOUG: 38
- Other: 56

Responses included 87 people who were members of POSSI only. These two surveys (which I'll refer to, here, as the demographic survey and the meeting survey) were announced on the POSSI discussion and announce listservs. (If you're wondering why you weren't included, now you know. You snooze, you lose.) 135 responses is about 25% of the membership, so it's a pretty good cross-section.

I also created a survey very similar to the demographic survey, using different software—that was the point, after all. I posted notices about that survey to the OS/2 community at large, in the *comp.os.os2* newsgroups, on the OS/2 Central forum on CompuServe, and other such locations. That survey resulted in 342 respondents, of which 125 identified themselves as member of a user group (devoted to OS/2 or otherwise), and 206 who said they

Esther Schindler is program chair of the Phoenix OS/2 Society. In real life, she's Technology Editor for ZD's *Sm@rt Reseller* magazine. You can reach her at [esther@bitranch.com](mailto:esther@bitranch.com).

were not members. While I looked at all the data, I was particularly interested in comparing POSSI's membership to the non-members. I'll refer to this as the Control survey, and to the people who don't belong to a user group as nonmembers. Overall, I had data from 520 OS/2 users.

My intention was to compare POSSI members to other user group members (particularly user groups that didn't specialize in OS/2), and to other OS/2 users (particularly those who weren't "joiners"). Because only 23 of the demographics survey respondents weren't OS/2 users, I don't have enough data from which to draw conclusions. If the SMUG and CB data warrants the comparisons, I'll mention it in a later column. (I'll provide demographic data to each of the other user groups who helped me. At a minimum, it'll help their program chairs define better meetings.)

### Our OS/2 usage

My first exploration was the behavior of the 168 demographics respondents who use OS/2. All are user group members, though not all belong to POSSI.

Nearly everyone (157 people, or 93%) uses OS/2 Warp 4. However, with an average of 1.5 responses, we clearly use more than just the current client version. 10 people (6%) use OS/2 2.1 or earlier; 53 (32%) are still using OS/2 Warp 3, and 30 (18%) use LAN Server or Warp Server. Five people (3%) use WorkSpace On Demand—though only one of those respondents works in a company with more than 500 employees, WSOD's target market. These numbers are within a few percentage points of the results of the Control survey.

We've been using OS/2 for about 4½ years. 57% of the membership has been using OS/2 for 5-10 years, and 35% have been using the OS for 3-4 years. POSSI has very few members who have been using OS/2 for under three years (just 7 people, about 4%).

This isn't different outside POSSI, or the user group community. In the Control survey, just 9% of the nonmembers have been using OS/2 for fewer than 3 years. 85 nonmembers (41%) have used OS/2 for 3-4 years and 100 (49%) have been using the OS for 5-10 years. Among both POSSI members and nonmembers, only a few respondents have used OS/2 for more than ten years.

We don't have much new blood in the OS/2 community.

The experience with OS/2 reflects our experience with PCs. 67% of POSSI members have been using personal computers for ten years or more, and another 30% for 5-10 years. No respondents have used PCs for under three years.

POSSI members almost certainly use OS/2 at home (162, or 96%). They're also very likely to use it at work (101, or 60%) and in a mobile

intend to keep using it. However, they're distinctly unhappy with IBM's support of OS/2.

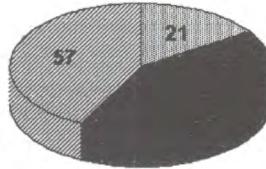
62% of the POSSI membership (103 responses) are very satisfied with OS/2. Another 37% (62) are satisfied. Only 2 people (1%) are unsatisfied with OS/2. Those are good marks.

Interestingly, the 32 POSSI respondents who work for large companies are slightly less enthusiastic. While none of them are dissatisfied, only 15 (47%) indicate that they're very happy with the OS; the remaining 17 (53%) are merely satisfied.

Their (relative) negativity is similar to the opinions of the nonmembers. 53% of them are very satisfied and 44% of them are satisfied—yet the Control's user group member population is almost identical in opinion to POSSI members (at 62% and 36%).

How satisfied are you with IBM's support of OS/2?

■ A- Very satisfied  
■ B- Satisfied  
■ C- Dissatisfied  
■ D- Very dissatisfied



Filter: "To which user group(s) do you belong?" includes any of "POSSI"  
Number of responses: 134

use (55, or 32%). The average was 1.89 responses, so most of us use it in more than one way. These numbers match the Control result percentages very closely.

I expected slightly different results from the 71 POSSI respondents who worked for companies with 500+ employees. However, they were remarkably similar: 44% use OS/2 at home, 37% use it at work, and 17% use it mobile. They're slightly more likely (2.15) to use OS/2 in more than one way.

### Our satisfaction

Without any question, OS/2 users love the operating system and

Not that there's much to worry about. Any vendor should be delighted to know that more than 97% of its users are happy with the product.

That satisfaction is reflected in the plans of OS/2 users to continue using the OS. 95% of POSSI members, and 96% of nonmembers, are likely or very likely to be using OS/2 a year from now. That includes the 71% (120 members) who are very likely to do so. That's remarkable product loyalty.

The news isn't so happy for IBM in regard to its support of OS/2. Only 1% of POSSI members (2 of the 167 respondents) are very satis-

fied with IBM's support, and 15% (25) are satisfied. 43% (73) are dissatisfied, and 40% (67) very dissatisfied. The results are only slightly better for the POSSI members who work for large corporations (32 respondents): 6% (2) are very satisfied, but fewer (3, 9%) are satisfied. 52% of them checked "dissatisfied" on the survey.

Nonmembers are more forgiving of IBM's OS/2 support—or maybe they're just more extreme. 2% (5 respondents) are very satisfied with IBM; 24% (49) are satisfied. 37% (75) are dissatisfied, and 36% (74) are very dissatisfied.

[As it happens, the data from both the demographic survey and the Control survey come in via an email account. I kept an eye on survey results as they trickled in—and on this set of questions, I noticed a peculiar change. The first responses were much more positive about OS/2 and more negative about IBM (95% pro- and con-, respectively), but the answers gradually mellowed, over time. I'm not sure if this has something to do with the passion of extremists or the rate at which the less excitable read their email, but it was interesting to watch.]

I want to minimize my own opinions in this report, but these results draw me to a few clear conclusions. OS/2 users love the OS—and they wish IBM did, too. Plus, if IBM has been trying to chase off the OS/2 end-users... that strategy isn't working.

Any company which has 85% of its customers unhappy with its product support had better worry.

## Purchasing behavior

If OS/2 users expect to continue using the operating system, is that a

hopeful message for the software developers who rely on them to purchase applications? Is this still a healthy market for ISVs? The indications seem positive.

POSSI members were asked how many applications they'd purchased in the last year (counting shareware) for each of several operating systems.

The average POSSI member has purchased 6.01 OS/2 applications in the last year. However, that number may be somewhat low: fully 25% of the membership marked that they purchased "ten or more" applications, and the survey scored that number as 10. Only 7% of the membership purchased zero or one OS/2 application.

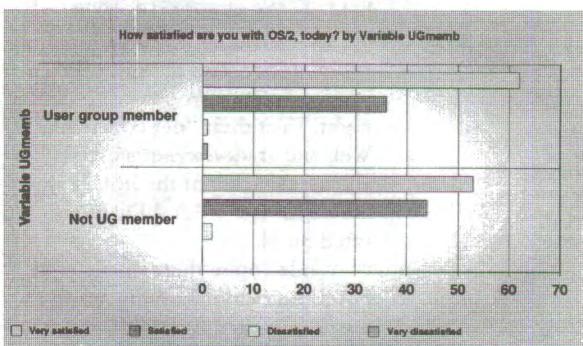
That's just slightly higher than the OS/2 user group members in the demographic survey (such as SCOUNG and "other" user groups), who had a mean of 5.86 OS/2 application purchases. However, the OS/2 user group members from the Control survey purchased a mean of 6.4 OS/2 programs, while the non-members purchased 5.87. It seems as if user group members are slightly more likely to purchase OS/2 programs—but it's good news for software developers, nonetheless.

OS/2 users aren't buying many DOS or Windows applications, though. POSSI members purchased an average of 1.47 DOS or Windows 3.1 programs in the last year, and 1.5 applications for Windows 95 or Windows NT.

The nonmembers from the Control survey bought more DOS/Win3.1 applications (1.95) and slightly more Windows 95/NT applications (1.6). They also purchased 1.3 Linux applications in the

last year, a question I didn't ask in the demographic survey.

I'd have liked to compare these numbers to members in non-OS/2 user groups—do we spend more money than they do?—but my data sample is too small from which to draw useful conclusions. Plus, those users are largely home users (fewer than 10% of those respondents are networked), which is different from



Users are happy with OS/2. Now IBM, on the other hand...

the wide cross-section inside the OS/2 community results. Preliminary information, from the 23 non-OS/2 users, indicates that they purchased zero-to-one (.77) DOS or Windows 3.1 programs in the last year, and 5.2 for Windows 95/NT—but it's way too early to say. (Whenever I mention these users in this report, take the results with a few grains of salt.)

OS/2 users are committed to shareware. We try an average of 6.41 shareware applications a year, and register 2.83 of them. In contrast, the nonmembers try 7.97 applications, of which 3.93 are registered. The small number of non-OS/2 users report an average of 2.87 shareware programs tried, of which 1.65 are registered.

continued on page 8 ➤

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# *two warped* Making plans for Chicago

Judy McDermott

The Warpstock Committee announced the new home for Warpstock '98.

Wyndham Northwest, located in Itasca, Illinois, has been chosen as the meeting place for the Warpstock '98 conference. Warpstock will be held on October 16-18, 1998.

The Wyndham offers something for everyone, and has given Warpstock a fantastic room rate at \$99 a night. Visit their "net courteous," Web site at [www.wyndham.com](http://www.wyndham.com) for an extensive list of the hotel's amenities. This is a AAA 4 Diamond rated hotel.

While you're there, make your hotel reservations online, using the meeting code WARPSTOCK. Then pack your bags to head for the Windy City.

Saturday sessions are expected to start bright and early at 8:00am and run late, so the Wyndham will be the most convenient site to stay. Join us Friday night in the Oak Bar & Grill for a getting-to-know you meeting.

Vendors may want to note a few additional items. Warpstock will have all the necessities and amenities to show off your OS/2-friendly products in the best possible light. The exhibitor space will be 10 feet by 7 feet. It will have an 8 foot high back drop, 3 foot high draped sides, and an identification placard. A six foot draped table, two chairs, wastebasket, and 15 amp electrical service. Double sized spaces are available. Internet access is available by prior request; for Internet access for your exhibit contact the network coordinator, Jason Kowalczyk ([network@warpstock.org](mailto:network@warpstock.org)).

For further information or special needs, contact the Warpstock Facilities Chair, John G. Herbert ([facilities@warpstock.org](mailto:facilities@warpstock.org)) or use the Web page [https://secure.falcon-net.net/BMT/warpstock.html](http://secure.falcon-net.net/BMT/warpstock.html) and make your reservation to exhibit at Warpstock '98.

Special shareware developer demonstrations will be a new addition to Warpstock '98. For those that can't afford a booth, or maybe a one-man-shop that sells shareware only via the Internet, BMT Micro, or Indelible Blue, this is for you! Warpstock '98 will give preregistered developers an announced one-hour slot to demonstrate their product to up to 82 people for a very small fee. Be sure to watch for the special developer demonstration announcement.

Warpstock '98 Event Coordinator, Stan Sidlov, states, "The challenge of this year's Warpstock is to exceed last year's attendance, to bring in more vendors and shareware authors while enhancing the experience for the OS/2 attendee. We have a trade show professional, John Hebert, coordinating our site facilities and the vendor's exhibit needs, a telco's networking engineer, Jason Kowalczyk, doing our network, Tom Rowe from the University of Wisconsin coordinating our speakers, and lawyer/research fellow Jeffrey S. Norman coordinating our volunteers. Henry T. Ferlauto, the president of the Gotham PC UG OS/2 SIG, is coordinating our publicity.

"With guys like these, we can't fail to have a better Warpstock. The only thing we are missing will be those people who think that they can miss this event. Warpstock in Chicago will be exciting and full of announcements and previews of new software from both vendors and IBM. Warpstock in Chicago will also be everyone's chance to meet the people behind the emails that make the OS/2 on-line community one of the strongest groups on the Internet, and on CompuServe. I urge everyone to plan to take time and visit us in Chicago, October 16-18."

Last year, I met so many fellow OS/2 users from all over the world! This year will be an even larger conference. See you at Warpstock '98!

## Hit the road Jack!

Join the convoy to Warpstock 98. The Dallas/Fort Worth OS/2 User Group folks won't be sitting at home during the OS/2 event of the year.

Rob Couch, DFW OS/2 president, reports that they are forming a convoy to Chicago to join in the Warpstock 98 festivities. As of July 15, they have estimated three RVs and five personal vehicles, and they've only just begun!

Don't get left behind. Rob said, "We will post our route on the web site and time of departure and arrival at key places along the route. If other groups across the country would like to converge at a few of these locations, we would gladly welcome them." The DFW OS/2 Web site is located at [www.dfwos2.org](http://www.dfwos2.org).

## VOICE

In addition to the original homepage, [www.os2voice.org](http://www.os2voice.org), hosted by Millennium Technologies, Inc., a mirror site is now available at the OS/2 SuperSite, <http://voice.os2ss.com>, thanks to Dr. Dirk Terrell, Falcon Networking.

BMT Micro Inc. is now a Platinum sponsor of VOICE. They not only provide software distribution services—they provide support to the OS/2 community!

VOICE has reserved a booth at Warpstock 98. In addition to the current member discounts from Millennium Technologies, Inc., GammaTech, Stardock Systems, Panacea and 2Rud Software, Warpstock special discounts on WarpSpeed Computers' Graham Utilities and Adventure Software's Internet Adventurer for OS/2 PM will be available to those signing up for membership at Warpstock 98. ☺

press release

# OS/2 Warp Server to manage Windows NT servers

IBM announced that the next release of OS/2 Warp Server will allow users to administer Windows NT 4.0 servers from an OS/2 Warp Server screen, simplifying network access.

The new release will also provide support for Intelligent Input/Output (I2O) device drivers and adapters, which will give customers immediate availability of I2O SCSI and LAN device drivers.

## NT Server management

The new server management capabilities in the upcoming version of OS/2 Warp Server should help system administrators to better manage their multi-vendor network through an OS/2 Warp Server. The new Windows NT server management gives administrators the ability to create, update and delete user accounts, passwords, and groups, via OS/2 Warp Server. The user information can be synchronized

seamlessly with Windows NT servers in the OS/2 Warp Server network.

With the new version of OS/2 Warp Server, end users will be able to access all servers, files, applications, and printers by logging on to a single OS/2 Warp Server.

## I2O device driver support

The I2O specification defines a standard for classes of device drivers such as SCSI, and LAN ethernet and token ring. Enterprises can be confident that as long as a device driver supports the I2O specification, OS/2 Warp Server will support that device driver. Compliance with this specification ensures that OS/2 Warp Server users will not have delays in availability of I2O SCSI and LAN device drivers.

## The next version

"As we roll out the next version of OS/2 Warp Server early next year,

you will see that we are putting a strong emphasis on the needs of our enterprise customers," said Jeff Smith, director of IBM's OS/2 Business Unit. "Both the Windows NT server management and our support of the I2O device driver specification are enhancements that should help our customers to better manage their enterprises."

In addition to the features and functionality found in today's OS/2 Warp Server, the new release will offer customers out-of-box Year 2000 and euro currency readiness. It will also include a high-performance Journaling File System offering faster performance, improved scalability, and enhanced Web serving capabilities. The next version of OS/2 Warp Server is planned for beta availability in late 1998 and general availability in 1999. (6)

# LOOK!

Increase your productivity with these two great products from AVIAR!

### 1. "Object REXX by Example®"

The book that teaches you Object REXX the easiest way possible - by example.

By: Gwen L. Veneskey  
Will Trosky  
John J. Urbanik

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for a Table of Contents

### 2. "V Trex"

Speech-activated, natural-language queries into your DB2/2 Databases.

"Information at your fingertips?"  
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INFORMATION... at your COMMAND!

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## OS usage

POSSI members, and OS/2 users in general, know what the competition offers. POSSI members use an average of 2.82 operating systems regularly—where the small sample of non-OS/2 user group members use 1.3 OSs.

Furthermore, the POSSI members have a wider range of regular OS than the non-OS/2 users: their 23 respondents report that they use only DOS, Windows 3.1, and Windows 95 regularly. POSSI members obviously use OS/2 (100%) but the membership uses DOS (54, 40%), Windows 3.1 (29, 22%), Windows 95 (70, 52%), Windows NT (41, 31%), Macintosh (3, 2%), Linux (13, 10%), and other Unix OSs (16%). I didn't think to ask about mainframe

Windows 95 more often, followed by Other Unix (2%) and Windows NT (2%). Among the nonmembers, Windows NT is used most often by 4% of respondents, and Windows 95/98 by 3%.

The small sample of non-OS/2 users overwhelmingly chose Windows 95/98 (96%) but none of them even use Windows NT.

Since OS/2 users clearly use more than one operating system, I felt it important to ask where they spend their computing time. About 10% of POSSI members are completely OS/2, using the OS 100% of the time. On average, we spend 71% of our computing time in OS/2—though the largest single number checked the box marked 90-99%. An average of 10.8% of computing time is spent in Windows 95—a mean of 61%, though, by those who say they use Windows 95 regularly. Only 4% of POSSI members' time is spent using Windows NT, and .2% using Linux. Most of those who use Linux spend under 10% of their computing time in the OS.

Nonmembers, too, spend between 70-79% of their computing time in OS/2. None of the other OSs command more than 10% of the users' time, though.

## Connectivity

We use the Internet: 90% are online daily or more often. 16% of POSSI members (22 respondents) are "always connected," 45% (61) use it "several times a day," and 28% (38) use it daily. Only 14 members use the Internet "several times a week" or less often. (Then again, this survey was conducted on the Internet. Some self-selection surely plays a part.) The percentages are nearly identical for nonmembers.

Internet connections are largely made by modem dial-up lines (118 respondents, or 62%). ISDN is used by 7% of members (13), and a fractional T1 or T1 by 13% (25). Cable modems are still rare (8 respondents, 4%), and only 2 members reported a satellite connection.

We're also networked. 50% of POSSI members, and 60% of non-members, are connected to a network other than the Internet.

## Behavior and background

Our industry involvement is split. 52% (66) have a job in the computer industry; 48% (61) do not.

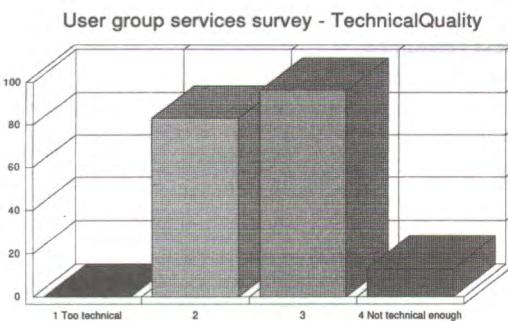
POSSI members consider themselves computer experts, as you see in Table 1. Novice was defined as "I feel lost, most of the time," Beginner as "I can do a few things, but I need guidance," Comfortable as "I'm no expert, but I can get my work done," Expert as "People come to me for advice," and Wizard as "I always seem to know the answer."

Table 1. Expertise with computers

Novice	1	.7%
Beginner	0	0%
Comfortable	21	16%
Expert	97	72%
Wizard	16	12%

On the technology adoption curve, POSSI members are technology enthusiasts, though a significant percentage considers themselves to be part of the early mainstream. In this categorization, my analogies centered around the version of software you were likely to use: an early adopter will use alpha software, a technology enthusiast uses beta software, and an early mainstream user depends on version 1.0. Mainstream users like to use what's accepted and understood; laggards' attitude is "my old stuff works, why mess with it?"

This finding is slightly surprising. In conversations with IBM executives and other computer industry notables, the opinion is that OS/2 end users are firmly in the early-adopter camp. I don't think anyone would have predicted that 28% of POSSI members (and a similar percentage in the control survey) would



Technical info: Too much? Too little? It looks about right.

and other large system OSs, but plenty of respondents wrote in to correct my error.

Nonmembers have similar experiences. Fewer of them use DOS (30%) and Windows 95 (40%), and more use Linux (26%), but the results are about the same. 16% use mainframe OSs.

As you'd expect from an OS/2 user survey, OS/2 is used most often by POSSI members (82%) and OS/2 nonmembers (88%). It's the second and third OS choices that are interesting, however. Among POSSI members, 9% use

classify themselves as early mainstream.

Table 2. Comfort with technology		
Early adopter	9	7%
Technology enthusiast	80	59%
Early mainstream	38	28%
Mainstream	6	4%
Laggard	2	1%

## Our reading

Those technical enthusiasms connect with our reading. I provided a (too-short) list of common print computer magazines, and asked which the member read regularly.

The shortness of my list was aptly demonstrated by the 60 respondents who wrote in additional publications on the "other" space. Even so, the average number of these publications read by our members is 2.87. That's counting the "others" as one checkmark, when some members offered a half-dozen extra titles—and I hadn't encouraged people to add more. "None of the above" was marked by 22 respondents, so the readership you see below indicates a high magazine readership rate among the 104 people who provided answers.

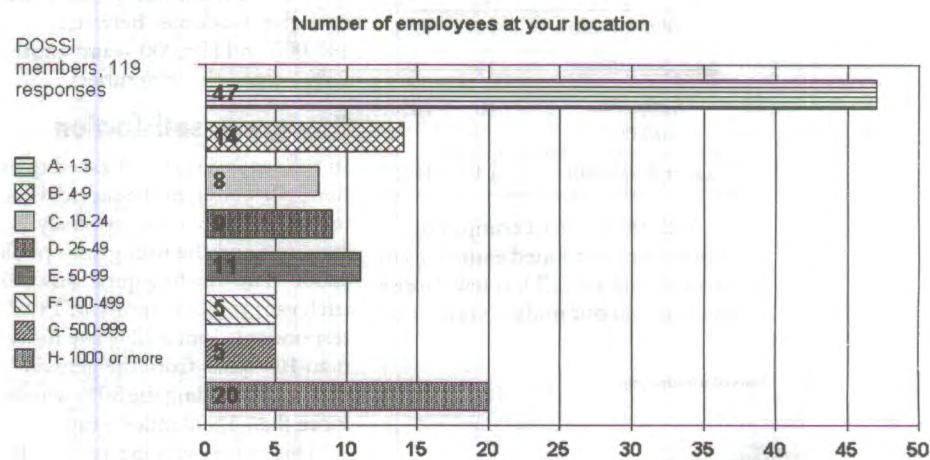
The most popular print publications are *PC Magazine* (49 responses), *Infoworld* (37), and *Computerworld* (22). I was heartened to see *Sm@rt Reseller* show up (11 responses), ahead of *Computer Reseller News* (7)—can you blame me? Also notable were two write-ins, *PC Week* (10) and *Byte* (11), especially because people had to go out of their way to add those magazines. Plenty of people added extended attributes, too, but we already knew they got this magazine!

The popularity ratings are somewhat different in POSSI than they are in the nonmember community. (Noting my mistakes, I added a few extra publications to the list.) Of the 107 nonmembers who answered this question, the most popular magazines were *Byte* (42), *PC Maga-*

*zine* (37), and *Infoworld* (30). *Computerworld* (20) trails *PC Week* (21) just slightly. (*Sm@rt Reseller*, alas, is read by only 4 respondents, but I always knew that POSSI members are smarter.) I have to wonder if *Byte*'s appearance on the list is nostalgia; several of the people who wrote it in, for the POSSI survey, added comments like "R.I.P."

For the POSSI survey, I asked how many online periodicals and ezines the member read. The mean

I also failed to ask POSSI members about their self-selected membership in Team OS/2, the grass roots organization best defined as "I've made a personal sacrifice in order to promote OS/2." I did ask this question in the Control survey, breaking down the answers by whether the respondent belonged to any user group. The nonmembers were overwhelmingly *not* members of Team OS/2—70% said No. However, user group members in



was 2.72 (compared to 2.96 among nonmembers), but the responses were very widely spread, and "5 or more" was tallied as 5.

I asked the Control survey (250 respondents) about specific OS/2-related sites, a question I forgot to ask POSSI members. If you've been wondering where OS/2 users really gather, take a look at Table 3.

Table 3. Online periodicals/ezines visited regularly

OS/2 e-zine	228	91%
EDM/2	86	34%
OS/2 Connect	71	28%
V.O.I.C.E.	53	21%
32 Bits Online	42	17%
IB Ink	40	16%
Focus on OS/2	31	12%
Warp City	30	12%
OS/2 BBS	22	9%

the Control survey were cautiously positive; 54% of those respondents said Yes.

## Ordinary demographics

POSSI members work in every size business, from tiny firms to big corporations.

However, this isn't a simple bell curve. The membership is centered on very small firms (53% work in companies with fewer than 50 employees), or in large ones (21% are in companies with 500 or more employees). I expected more variation in opinion based on company size, but I saw a distinction in only the few areas reported here.

There's little correlation between the size of the company one works for, and the dollar amount of computer purchases for which the member is responsible. The majority of the 125 who responded (56%) are clearly buying only personal equipment, with responsibility for under \$5,000 in annual purchases. How-

ever, 10% of the membership does recommend, specify, or control more than \$100,000 in computer purchases annually. We come out to a computer budget average of about \$44,000—still not an amount to sneer at. Especially since the non-members on the Internet average only about \$32,000 per year.

Table 4. Computer expenditures

Less than \$2,500	44	35%
\$2,500-5,000	26	21%
\$5,000-10,000	15	12%
\$10,000-25,000	11	8%
\$25,000-100,000	16	12%
Over \$100,000	13	10%

With the years of computing experience mentioned earlier, it's no surprise that POSSI has few "spring chickens" in our midst. None of the

The Phoenix OS/2 Society is a highly educated group; 41% of members have a post-graduate education, and another 31% have college degrees. Fewer of the nonmembers have completed college (34%) or postgraduate studies (29%).

Only 121 POSSI members responded to a question about household income, but those who did reflect an affluent lifestyle. While each category above \$25,000 per year is adequately represented, 50% of the membership has annual household incomes between \$45,000 and \$95,000—and another 25% exceed those numbers.

### User group satisfaction

In the second survey, I asked questions pertaining to the services each user group provides, especially meetings and the user group publication. The meeting questions were irrelevant to the majority of POSSI respondents, since 72% live more than 100 miles from the general meeting, including the 50% who live more than 1,000 miles away.

This survey was even more disappointing when I tried to get useful reports from the application I was testing. I never did figure out how to filter all of the results to report on, say, just the 129 (47%) respondents from POSSI, as opposed to the 90 (33%) from SCOUG, the 9 from SMUG, or 22 from CB. 22 other people, from unknown user groups, also answered. In any case, some of the results you see here are from all the groups glommed together. Sorry about that.

Meetings are generally regarded as fun—though not quite a barrel of laughs. 29% reported that the meetings are "great fun!" and 59% said they're generally entertaining. However, 6% said the general meetings are "better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick" and 7% answered, "Fun? I'm supposed to have fun?"

POSSI members are apparently happy with *extended attributes*; 96% of the 129 members who responded to this question say they always read it, and we never did

worse than "sometimes." 75% of POSSI respondents are very satisfied with the layout and graphics in *extended attributes*, and 22% are satisfied. Overall quality also earned a "very satisfied" mark from 79% of members, with the remaining 21% "satisfied."

One question I wasn't able to break apart by user group affiliation is the amount of time spent reading the magazine. The overall average is about 38 minutes, however.

Some questions don't need to be broken down; the answers are clear enough. Without a doubt, user group members care about the publication: across all user groups, 90% of members always read the newsletter. The publications' technical quality is about right: only 7% of members said their publication wasn't technical enough. Our magazines and newsletters have only slightly too much "guts" on the glitz/guts balance—but only slightly to the right of the line.

There's a little more variation in the relevance of the user group publication, among the 229 respondents who answered the survey.

Table 5. Publication Relevance

91	40%	Very relevant
85	37%	Somewhat relevant
37	16%	Slightly relevant
16	7%	Not at all relevant
43	16%	Didn't answer

### The bottom line

POSSI members are affluent, educated, and middle aged (or should I say "mature"?). They're technically knowledgeable and willing to try new things. Best of all, they're enthusiastic about OS/2, they buy applications—and they expect to keep doing so.

What's not to like? ☺



User group members are more likely to belong to Team OS/2

respondents are under 18 years old, and only 12% of the membership is under 35. The average member age is about 52, though 25% of the 135 respondents are between 35-44 years old. (In contrast, the average age of the nonmembers answering the Control questionnaire is 41.)

This is also a very-much-married user group. 92 of the 135 respondents, or 68%, are married. 21% (29) are single, 11 (8%) are divorced, and 3 (2%) are widowed. 15% (20 respondents) are retired or disabled; most of the membership (76%, or 102 respondents) works full-time.

# August meeting It's FOOBAR time!

by Dick Krueger

By popular demand (and POSSI board decision) there's no general meeting in August. You try to find a speaker willing to come to Phoenix when it's 110 degrees in the shade. Shade? What shade? Oh yes, of course, we get our shade at night.



Do you know why Arizona doesn't go on daylight savings time like the rest of the country? Because the *last* thing we need to save in the summer in Arizona is daylight.

Anyway, back to FOOBAR. In lieu of a general meeting we're going to have a FOOBAR: that's Friends Of OS/2 Barbecue And Revelry. In other words, a party! For the record, FOOBAR is not to be confused with those well-known, but well-meaning, programming twins, Foo and Bar. Who are not to be confused with the WWII military acronym FUBAR, which means, roughly

translated, Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition.

If you're a member of the Phoenix OS/2 Society, you're invited. If you're the spouse of a POSSI member, you're invited. If you're the friend of a POSSI member, you're invited. If you're the relative of a POSSI member, you're invited. If you're the neighbor of a POSSI member, you're invited. Heck, if you've ever even heard of POSSI, you're invited.

The barbecue part is easy. We'll have a gas grill available; bring whatever you want to toss on it. You can do your own or, if you'd rather not, there's sure to be plenty of cooking assistance available. Consider bringing a side dish to share. Plus, you'll also need to bring whatever you want to drink; we'll provide coolers filled with ice to keep 'em cold when you arrive.

The revelry part's easy, too. If you want to swim, bring a suit and towel. If you wanna sit, think about bringing a lawn chair (just in case all the chairs are already taken). If you want to talk, bring your brain. If you want to eat and drink, see previous paragraph. If you want to read, stay home. If you want to play croquet, you're out of luck—there's no lawn. If you wanna stay out of the heat, that's okay, too—there's room indoors.

"When does all this take place?" you might ask. Would you believe Saturday, August 15 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm? That's right—the hottest part of the day! Good thing there's a swimming pool. And some indoor space with air conditioning.

## General Meeting

### what

▲ FOOBAR (Friends Of OS/2 Barbecue And Revelry)

### where

▲ Dick Krueger's house  
5453 W Morgan Place  
Chandler, Arizona

### when

▲ Saturday, August 15, 1998  
▲ 2:00pm: Party!

"Where?" you might ask. (You're just full of questions, aren't you?) Okay, but I'm only gonna say this once, so *write it down!* Ready? Here it is:

Dick Krueger's house  
5453 West Morgan Place  
Chandler, Arizona 85226  
That's about two miles east of I-10, and just south of Chandler Boulevard. If you're on the 'Net, MapQuest will give a nice little map. If not, call 602-961-5019 or email [president@possi.org](mailto:president@possi.org) for directions.

See ya' there! ☺

## SIG news

### net.sig

by Mike Briggs, [mike@possi.org](mailto:mike@possi.org)

At the last meeting, we looked over some members' family home pages. Discussion followed on how to make and post such pages on the Web. Over the next few meetings, we'll put together home pages for some

local members. C'mon down, and see how we can establish and enhance one for you!

Other projects we're looking at include installing Lotus Smart Suite for OS/2, and getting cable modems to work with OS/2. See you next month. ☺

# Coming events

This is a list of events scheduled by the Phoenix OS/2 Society and other OS/2 user groups. Unless otherwise noted, active members may attend any scheduled event for free. (Other groups may have different attendance policies. Please check their Web sites for information about meeting schedules and attendance policies.)

## Meeting notes

### August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## August 1998

**4** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**4** HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**5** Magazine submission deadline for September issue. Articles should be sent to [editor@possi.org](mailto:editor@possi.org). For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

**15** FOOBAR (Friends of OS/2 Barbeque And Revelry). Send email to [president@possi.org](mailto:president@possi.org) for directions, time, and guidance about food to bring. Location: Dick Krueger's house.

**22** Board meeting and magazine prep. Meeting is 10:00am to 1:00pm. Eat a brunch, learn about the inner workings of the Society, and help get extended attributes ready to mail. Location: Bill and Esther Schindler's house in north Scottsdale, 9355 E Mark Lane. Call 585-5852 or send email to [esther@bitranch.com](mailto:esther@bitranch.com) for directions. Remember to bring a potluck dish to share, too.

## September 1998

**1** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**1** HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**5** Magazine submission deadline for October issue. Articles should be sent to [editor@possi.org](mailto:editor@possi.org). For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

**8** General meeting; Stardock (tentative) showing Object Desktop 2.0. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

**26** Board meeting and magazine prep.

## October 1998

**6** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**6** HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**5** Magazine submission deadline for November issue. Articles should be sent to [editor@possi.org](mailto:editor@possi.org). For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

**13** General meeting; The Graham Utilities, presented by Chris Graham, from Australia. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

**16** Warpstock '98. October 16-18 in Chicago, IL. See the Warpstock Web site at [www.warpstock.org](http://www.warpstock.org) for more information.

**26** Board meeting and magazine prep.

## November 1998

**3** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**3** HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

**5** Magazine submission deadline for December issue. Articles should be sent to [editor@possi.org](mailto:editor@possi.org). For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

**10** General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

**15** Interested in a POSSI Comdex get-together, perhaps for pizza? Send a note to Esther at [esther@bitranch.com](mailto:esther@bitranch.com)

**16** Comdex, through November 18. Las Vegas, NV.

**28** Board meeting and magazine prep.

# Meeting locations

General meetings are held at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

From the Black Canyon, exit at Dunlap and head east. From the Squaw Peak, exit at Northern. Go west to 12th Street, turn right and go north to Dunlap, turn right, and it's two blocks up on the right.

The "How OS/2 Works General Interest Group" and the Internet SIG (net.sig) meet at Knowledge Development Center, 2999 N 44th St, Suite 400. That's just north of Thomas, in the building with the green dome. Plenty of free parking space is available in the garage behind the building.

If the mailing label on the back cover says "sample," then this may be the only copy of extended attributes that you will ever receive. If you want to keep getting the magazine (and receive all the other benefits of membership), you must join! A 12 month membership in the US is only \$30. (See the form for membership pricing in other areas.) Tear out the application form, fill it in, and mail it with the membership fee to the Society's address.



## Shareware and freeware top files

provided by Pete Norloff, OS/2 BBS

### **IDEADASD.EXE, 120K, 5-01-98**

IDE drivers for >8.4Gb disks. Includes additional documentation on removable media and support for caching file system support for removable media.

### **ASSEOEDIT.ZIP, 70K, 4-23-98**

Association Editor v1.6. Allows you to inspect or modify associations set for file types and file filters. You can add new associations, remove old ones and change defaults associations. Also, you can add new filetypes.

### **OS2UNDOC.ZIP, 44K, 4-14-98**

Undocumented Features of OS/2 (INF). This INF file collects a variety of information concerning undocumented APIs and features of OS/2.

### **GATESNDC.JPG, 35K, 4-25-98**

Bill Gates in Washington DC. Here's a photo of Bill Gates (& Scott McNealy) in Washington, DC.

### **WIN32S1.ZIP, 2326K, 5-04-98**

Win32 files for WinOS2. Wptool20.zip has been replaced and isn't in the file collection any more.

### **WIN32OS2.ZIP, 797K, 4-22-98**

Win32-OS/2 project.

### **WPTOOL21.ZIP, 286K, 5-07-98**

With WPTools one can (partially) backup and restore a customized WPS, remove obsolete WPS related information from the ini-files, repair some WPS problems, etc. Also, one can from a REXX program query object parameters.

### **IBMIDE.ZIP, 90K, 4-28-98**

IBM1S506.ADD and IBMIDECD.FLT for OS/2 Warp—Support HDD >8.4GB.

### **XR\_M007.1DK, 1435K, 6-27-98**

Warp 4 FixPak 7 Diskette 1 of 16



## Speak to me

In the Editor's column of the July 1998 *extended attributes*, you requested feedback on the use of VoiceType Dictation (VTD) among members. I am a one-fingered (well sometimes two-fingered) typist, so I had the VTD board and program that was in use with Warp 3. Naturally, I was very happy when an improved version came with Warp 4. I use a stand microphone (PA type) so I am not encumbered by the mic being in the wrong place or wires getting tangled.

In navigation it has been and always will be the mouse. That is what seems to come naturally to me after all these years of the computer training me. When I had it set up so I could use it I would remember about navigation after I got where I was going.

I use the dictation portion if I believe that I will need to type much more than one page; for something like this email, it is strictly keyboard. I do not leave VTD running at all times. Another problem is that editing is not a latent talent. I can do a quick read and catch most errors in the dictation window, but if I read it the next day I will find sound-alike words still in the script. So I am more comfortable when I have time to let it sit for review. I do use it on longer messages because it is faster, and I dread spending so much time with data input. I can't be bothered with VTD if the work is technical because who could have recorded all those acronyms?

Bill Morrow

## Speaking up

You asked how we were using speech recognition.

Our company receives quite a few faxes every day from other members of our trade association and from third parties. Many of these companies are based in Europe, and the quality of the faxes is such that they do not scan very well.

I use VoiceType to incorporate material from these faxes into letters

that I send to our clients and members. I can compose a letter with the keyboard faster than I can compose a letter using VoiceType, but if I have something to read to VoiceType, I find it easier to read the text than to type it.

I usually dictate to DeScribe. WordPro works as well, but it's better not to tax the machine.

John Sandercock

## More to say

You mentioned in the latest (July, 1998) *extended attributes* (which I might add, is probably the best issue ever), "Now, almost a year-and-a-half later, most of the OS/2 users ... don't use speech."

I don't dispute that, but few applications have been *designed for speech from the beginning*.

We at Aviar are trying to remedy that. We built a custom system for Shawn & Dave Fogg at AVC which was designed for speech. Shawn uses it, with speech every day. As far as I know, he prefers speech to the mouse for screen navigation.

We are about to release a new product for Plant Maintenance and Engineering, which was designed for speech from the beginning. This is a vertical application, probably not for all OS/2 users unless they are in the Plant/Facilities Maintenance area.

It's called the "Oz. of Prevention System." You can see some screen shots at our Website, [www.oops-web.com](http://www.oops-web.com). As you peruse the screens, remember that anything you see on the screen can be spoken, including the entry field captions, the button captions, check boxes, etc.

Speech is a great boon to such applications. All the user has to do is speak the name of the field which he wants to enter data into and the field gets the focus. For data manipulation, the user can speak "Add" or "Change" or "Remove" to update the databases. For comments and notes, the user can say "Computer" and it switches to Dictation mode. For dates, which are important for such an application, the user can

speak the date "January 9 1998," or "Yesterday."

For ad hoc reporting, we use our V Trex system, where the user can build an entire Dictionary of words and phrases, then combine these to answer questions such as "How many jobs were late last quarter?" or "What parts which cost more than \$200 are in stock?"

But the important issue is that the application has to be *designed for speech*. We worked hard, over the last several years, to understand how to do this.

John Urbanik

## Old programmers never die

Just got the July issue (the first of my new membership) of *extended attributes*. Sorta neat.

My favorite article was John Wubbel's, "The trouble with old 16-bit code!" I always enjoy a good debugging session.

Peter Skye

## More code! More code!

The July issue of *extended attributes* is the most informative I have seen in a long time. I certainly would like to see more articles along the line of "Professor Twiddle's College" and "An HTML primer." They were very educational, especially the former, since I discovered new and better ways to use OS/2. I hope we will have more of this in the next issues.

The article "The trouble with old 16-bit code!" was interesting, but for us non-system programmers a few definitions would have been nice. I still don't know what PMGRE and PMPRE are, but they seem to be important for the operation of OS/2.

Niels Jensen

Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@possi.org, or mailed to:  
Editor, extended attributes  
Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.  
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133  
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585

We reserve the right to edit all letters for content, readability, and length.

# System Commander Deluxe Version 4.0

by Craig Greenwood

V Communications, Inc.'s System Commander is a glorified Boot Manager for the masses. With it, you can install various operating systems in shared or separate partitions, and boot between them. System Commander supports all PC-compatible operating systems, including OS/2, BeOS, and the many variations of Unix. The Deluxe version adds an OS Wizard which determines the configuration for new operating systems. It also can create and resize partitions, and includes universal mouse support.

Using System Commander added about five seconds to my boot up routine, as this is how long it takes to load after the BIOS posts. At this point the OS selection screen is shown, listing the OSs that you have installed. You can configure this screen to wait for a selection before booting, or to boot to a default OS after a (user selectable) countdown period.

The OS selection screen has a menu bar with several choices which can be accessed instead of selecting an OS. These menu options are: OS-Wizard, Setup, Detail, Info-disk, Color, About and, Help.

The OS Wizard helps prepare your computer for a new operating System. It gives you options to install a new OS, reinstall an existing OS with the same version, and install a new version on top of an old version (such as installing Windows 95 over Windows 3.x).

System Commander is willing and able to install multiple OSs in a common partition and boot them independently—up to 32 in a single DOS partition. It does so by swapping key files in-and-out of its own backup directory, depending on the OS being booted at a given time. For example, if you have Win 3.x installed, you can install Windows 95 to the same partition, and System Commander will still be able to boot into either one.

If you have OS/2 3.0 on your system and choose to install OS/2 4.0 in an independent partition, the OS-Wizard will, space permitting,

create a partition and copy over an exact duplicate of the Warp 3 partition. It will then install Warp 4 over the duplicate so you won't need to reinstall your applications.

Even though OSs like OS/2 and Linux do not need to be installed on a primary drive, the OS Wizard will only install to primary drives. If you want the operating systems installed elsewhere, do the installation manually and then assign the OS to the boot menu afterward.

Within the OS-Wizard you have access to a graphical utility, similar to Partition Magic, which enables you to manually create, delete, or resize partitions.

## The Setup menu

The setup menu has options to set the time-out and default OS, enable a screen saver, and a variety of other special global settings. A password security submenu allows an administrator to set up multiple users with varying security profiles.

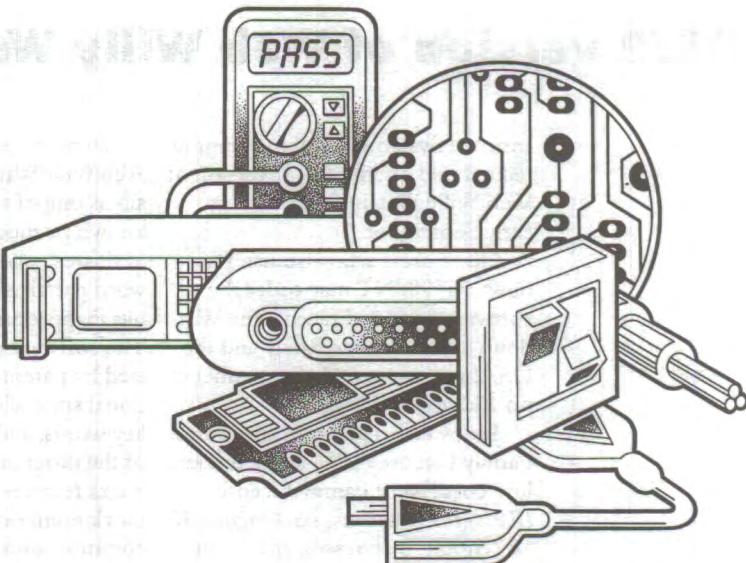
System Commander can be temporarily disabled or permanently removed very simply, by running a DOS program that is installed in the System Commander directory.

Would you benefit from using this application? It depends! Do you want to "upgrade" an existing OS

with caution, without giving up the original installation? Do you have a need for the included disk utilities so you can create, delete, and resize partitions on the fly? Do you have a system that is accessed by several users who are not trained to use some of the OSs that you have installed? Do you want to install more than three OSs that require being in primary partitions? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then System Commander may be a worthwhile investment for you. If nothing else, you can make your boot options more aesthetically pleasing with colored icons. ☺

**System Commander**  
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[www.v-com.com](http://www.v-com.com)

Craig Greenwood is a software junkie and fledgling freelance author in the mainstream computer press.



by Daniel Lonergan



You can read more about NetExtra online at the manufacturers site at [www.innoval.com/netextra](http://www.innoval.com/netextra). You can also purchase it directly from Innoval on their Web site for \$25.

Dan Lonergan works for Touchvoice Corporation, a company that offers OS/2 based PBX and networking solutions. ([www.deltanet.com/touchvoice](http://www.deltanet.com/touchvoice)) He has been using OS/2 since version 3 thanks to the advice of friend Tom Nadeau.

NetExtra from Innoval (the same folks that produce J Street Mailer) is a utility that enhances your Internet experience. I must admit when I first loaded the program and tried it out, I asked myself, "What would I really need this program for?" After all, Netscape can handle most of NetExtra's functions without having to leave the program. But after some time using the program, I have found that it handles many "redundant" functions, such as bookmarks, with more finesse. NetExtra even has some handy features Netscape lacks, such as page mining.

Granted, you can download a page from the Internet from Netscape, but NetExtra can download all the graphics and links (no matter where the links are), up to nine levels deep from the source page—all at once. NetExtra saves this data in a file, and creates an Icon for quick access. This is great for offline viewing of articles and their references.

NetExtra allows you to create bookmark folders just like Netscape. But this is where the comparison ends. NetExtra has

built-in advanced search features that allow you to find a desired URL quickly. This comes in handy if you have a habit of bookmarking everything that you just may want to get back to someday—until your bookmark file takes up more space on your hard drive than your browser does.

You can convert your existing

Net Extra also keeps track of the most recently visited sites in a "Jump" folder in case you want to go back and drag and drop any of these into your bookmark folder.

Perhaps the most useful feature is the Logs folder. This folder automatically records every page you have visited on the Web and saves it in a date stamped file monthly for

you to refer to at will. This is where the advanced search functions really come in handy. So, say you visited a site some months back but can not remember where it was and for some reason you need to find it again—no problem. It is safely stored in your Log file. Or if you want to pass on to your grandchildren your entire Web journey you can do it. (The better advice would be

to "Get a life!") But the capability is there. Of course it would really be nice if the program included a coupon for a one terabyte hard drive.

NetExtra is not a must-have for everyone. But if you need to organize your Web activity or would simply like to, this program can come in handy. In fact, by just having it around it seems to grow on you and you may find yourself using it more frequently as time passes. ☺

NetExtra Jump List		
File	Sort	View
URL Number	Title	URL
4	Best of OS/2 Announcements	<a href="http://www.aescon.com/bestofos2/msgs/msgs.htm">http://www.aescon.com/bestofos2/msgs/msgs.htm</a>
5	PowerQuest - Makers of PartitionMagic	<a href="http://www.powerquest.com/">http://www.powerquest.com/</a>
6	Download Product Updates	<a href="http://www.powerquest.com/download/">http://www.powerquest.com/download/</a>
7	Technical Support & Information	<a href="http://www.powerquest.com/technical/">http://www.powerquest.com/technical/</a>
8	Innoval Systems Solutions, Inc.	<a href="http://www.aescon.com/innoval/">http://www.aescon.com/innoval/</a>
9	Best of OS/2 Online Store	<a href="http://www.aescon.com/bestofos2/netextra2.htm">http://www.aescon.com/bestofos2/netextra2.htm</a>
10	NBC.COM	<a href="http://www.nbc.com/">http://www.nbc.com/</a>
11	NBC's Most Wanted	<a href="http://www.nbc.com/entertainment/highlights/mostw.htm">http://www.nbc.com/entertainment/highlights/mostw.htm</a>
12	TV Guide Online	<a href="http://www.iguide.com/">http://www.iguide.com/</a>
13	NBC Entertainment	<a href="http://www.nbc.com/entertainment/index.html">http://www.nbc.com/entertainment/index.html</a>
14	The Tonight Show with Jay Leno	<a href="http://www.nbc.com/tonightshow/index.html">http://www.nbc.com/tonightshow/index.html</a>
15	Best of OS/2 Online Store	<a href="http://www.aescon.com/bestofos2/00001.htm">http://www.aescon.com/bestofos2/00001.htm</a>
24 URLs		

Netscape or WebEx bookmark folder to NetExtra's format. I did so, but I didn't like that it created one great big folder and did not preserve the dozen or so folders that I had organized my links into.

NetExtra allows you to assign nicknames to your URLs. Instead of typing `http://www.bla_bla_bla/bla_bla.html`, you type bla or even b in the Open Location box.

password to switch between secure and non-secure mode.

In addition to blocking pornography sites, Web Willy Watch may be used to gather Web content for offline browsing. The program can also record the title and URL of every web site ever visited. In addition to being useful for monitoring a child's web activity, this is a useful feature for tracking down forgotten URL's that were not bookmarked.

A Single Family License is \$20. An Every Family License costs \$159.

Additional details may be found at [www.webwilly.com](http://www.webwilly.com). ☺

*press release*

## OS/2 version of Web Willy Watch

InnoVal Systems Solutions committed to build a native OS/2 version of Web Willy Watch, for release by early September.

OS/2 users who also use Windows 95/98/NT may order the software now, and receive the Windows version immediately and the OS/2 version in early September at no additional charge.

Innoval also announced a Single Family License (SFL) and a unique, low-cost Every Family License (EFL) for churches, synagogues, K-12 schools, businesses, and membership organizations. The license agreement applies to both OS/2 and Windows platforms.

To block pornographic sites, Web Willy Watch checks to see if the site is one of tens of thousands of known pornography sites. It also evaluates page content, looking for word patterns suggesting that a site has inappropriate sexual content. The software can be easily customized by parents to disallow additional sites, allow certain sites, add key words, and adjust the sensitivity of the program's word pattern logic. Extra features allow parents to block numeric-only IP addresses, common among pornography sites, and pages with 1-900 phone numbers. It is easy for someone with a

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# Programming In search of something to do

by John Wubbel

## Looking for something to do?

Before the days of the PC, I had friends who were always tinkering with homemade devices that looked like oversize calculators without a case. These primitive 8-bit machines consisted of a keypad and a display that only showed hexadecimal flying by, and they were programmed in assembler.

Most of us had one thing in common, as engineers. We were all looking for something to do that had not been done before, be it a hardware or software project.

As a programmer, try to think of a program you could write that has not already been done. It has to be a project small enough to accomplish in under three to six months of spare time. It ain't easy, MaGee! This is particularly vexing if you are a junior engineer without the benefit of four or five years of experience. A good idea might require skills not yet achieved.

In the early days of the PC, "terminate and stay resident" (TSR) programs made for nice projects. A more difficult task might be to write a device driver. Usually, software developers come upon these small projects as they were working on larger ones. A larger project tends to be divided into smaller pieces. The small projects always seem to grow because as you finish a program, you realize ways to make it better or enhance it so at times it never seems possible to finish what you start. However, that may not matter because of the satisfaction derived from inventing something in the first place.

## Typematic time

I struggled for a long time looking for something unique to design and program. I was not about to invent a better spreadsheet. I wanted to learn, yet not get discouraged. In hindsight, I found this need satisfied by a series of projects that started small, but each one was a little more lengthy and involved.

For example, the IBM AT allowed you to set its keyboard typematic rate. In other words, if the cursor moved too slow across the

screen, you could set its speed limit and the sensitivity of the key (which affects the length of time after depressing a key before it takes off and runs at its limit). This was done through a boot diskette setup utility that came with the system.

When the IBM PS/2 systems came along, you configured it via a boot diskette called a reference disk. This seemed like a pain in the neck at the time because, working in a compatibility test lab, we were always upgrading the BIOS code for the BIOS EPROMs. So, I set out to write a tiny program to set the typematic rate.

What do you do when first starting on a project? Well, I cracked open the IBM DOS Technical Reference to see what I could find. Finally, I found something in the old IBM AT Technical Reference that documented the BIOS. All I had to do was twiddle a bit and it worked. The resulting program is on the right.

Once you finish your first project, you are right back where you started, looking for something else to do. But this time, you want something more and you think you're pretty good. It might get so bad for lack of thinking of something really good to do, you go off and start writing your own compiler! Yeah, right!

After creating a series of small programs in C or REXX, it finally dawns on you that there is a need for a certain type of application. You search like crazy, thinking someone must have already "been there and done that" ahead of you. I wish things would dawn on me that easy!

Most of the time, if you are tied up programming in a computer lab or office, you find yourself somewhat shielded from the outside world. It is not until you get out and start talking to people and finding out what their problems and needs are, that you can develop a requirement. Initially, it will be no more than a concept until you sleep on it, give it enough thought, and explore its feasibility.

## Power play

In my particular case, I was working on an application that was to run on a laptop computer. In the early days of laptop computers, the resources were very constrained. One resource is the battery life and the amount of power left. An idea then came to mind similar to the typematic program, simply because the current method was a nuisance.

Advanced Power Management is an industry standard that explains the division of responsibilities for power management between hardware and software. The Advanced Power Management 1.0 Specification defines the Advanced Power Management BIOS Extension interfaces available to the operating system software layers.

When the Advanced Power Management (APM) specification first came out, IBM did not have a battery indicator available for an OS/2 machine. Eventually, they had a little battery program available to give an idea of battery life. The program was dependent upon a device driver known as APM.SYS. The battery program at the time was a nuisance because—in terms of usability for an end-user running an application—it was neither convenient nor accurate at ascertaining the life of the battery.

So, I set out to design a replacement for the battery program. I researched the APM specification and figured out how to get the information. I wanted it to be a stand-alone OS/2 PM program, and I wanted it to display its data in my applications primary user interface at periodic intervals. This would let the user determine the battery status without needing to minimize the application or switch to the battery program.

OS/2 APM supports and extends the APM 1.0 specification. Therefore, in order for this program to work, the hardware must support the APM specification and the OS/2 APM device driver must be installed.

My client program was a pediatric clinical application. A longer

The code that implements the battery status program, APM.C and APM.H, can be found on the POSSI Web site, [www.possi.org](http://www.possi.org).

term goal was to enable the application to commit data automatically, and notify the user of a pending shutdown situation, or at least until a battery switch or recharge.

This project was enjoyable because it let me experiment with the WinBroadcastMsg API to broadcast the battery status data. Any OS/2 client application listening could display it in a place that was convenient for the end user. I call it a client application because the battery status program only runs to serve this information up to the application in a non-distracting manner. In the client application, I created three static text fields that were invisible so when the broadcasting was not available, the end user would not see the fields. When the broadcast data was available, the static fields were refreshed with the latest battery information.

This program opens to the Desktop to report on the Power Source, Battery Status, and Battery Life. Status is queried every 65.5 seconds. Status is also provided to other applications via a call to WinBroadcastMsg. The status information originates from the APM device driver. Application programmers can enable their applications to receive status from a broadcast by defining a private user message:

```
#define WMP_BATTERY_STATUS \
WM_USER + 22222
```

In the message, the Power Flags and AC Status are contained in message parameter one (mp1), and the Battery Status and Battery Life are contained in parameter 2 (mp2).

When Battery Status changes to Low, the Battery Life is at 25%. When Battery Status changes to Critical, the Battery Life is at 18%.

The presentation of power status information within an application may be more appropriate than going elsewhere to find the status. If the condition of the Battery Status goes to Low, an application program can react by notifying the user, saving data, etc.

## Is it annoying? It's an opportunity!

In conclusion, if you are looking for something to do, all you have to do is ask some customers and it seems like one project leads to another. ☺

```
*****  
/* Title: Setmatic.c */  
/*  
 * AUTHOR: John J. Wubbel */  
/* Language: C Compiler */  
/* Compiler: IBM C/2 */  
/*  
 * FUNCTION: A program to set the typematic delay and rate on */  
/* the keyboard for OS/2 protect mode. */  
/*  
 * CHANGE LOG:  
 * 1/18/89 - Initial Coding. John J Wubbel Ver 1.00 */  
*****  
#include <stdio.h>  
#include <stdlib.h>  
#include <doscall.h>  
#include <error.h>  
  
#define QMARK '?'  
  
main (int argc, char *argv[]){  
    unsigned error_code = 0; // Declare for error return.  
    int hand; // Declare for Keyboard Handle.  
    struct {  
        int delay, rate; // Delay is in milliseconds  
    } ParmList; // Rate is in characters/second  
  
    if ( argc > 1 && argc < 3 ) // checking for SETMATIC ?  
    {  
        if ( ****argv == QMARK ) // invocation  
        {  
            printf("HELMATIC FOR SETMATIC\n");  
            printf("Invoke with 2 parameters.\n\n");  
            printf("SETMATIC delay rate\n\n");  
            printf("The Delay = milliseconds.\n");  
            printf("The Rate = characters per second.\n\n");  
            printf("Defaults are 500 & 35 respectively.\n\n");  
            ParmList.delay = 0x1F4; // Initialize delay to 500  
            ParmList.rate = 0x23; // Initialize rate to 35 cps  
        }  
    }  
    if ( argc > 2 && argc < 4 ) // checking for supplied  
    {  
        ParmList.delay = atoi(argv[1]);  
        ParmList.rate = atoi(argv[2]);  
    }  
    if ( argc == 1 )  
    {  
        ParmList.delay = 0x1F4; // Initialize delay to 500  
        ParmList.rate = 0x23; // Set rate to 35 cps  
    }  
    error_code = KBDOPEN(&hand); // Open the logical keyboard.  
    if (error_code != NO_ERROR) // Compare JNZ  
    {  
        // Print error number.  
        printf("KbdOpen error %d\n",error_code);  
    }  
    // Parameters are set, do the OS call and make it a fast cursor  
    error_code = DOSDEVIOCTL(NULL, (char far *)&ParmList, 0x54,  
        04, hand);  
    if (error_code != NO_ERROR) // Check for error returned.  
    {  
        // Print error number.  
        printf("DosDevIOCtl error %d\n",error_code);  
    }  
    error_code = KBCLOSE(hand); // Close logical keyboard.  
    if (error_code != NO_ERROR) // Check for error returned.  
    {  
        // Print error number.  
        printf("KbdClose error %d\n",error_code);  
    }  
    printf("Set Typematic Delay and Rate in OS/2 Protect Mode.\n");  
    printf("Rate = %d characters per second.\n", ParmList.rate);  
    printf("Delay = %d milliseconds.\n", ParmList.delay);  
    printf("By John Wubbel @ 1987\n");  
    /* End of Program */  
}
```

# Drive Image makes the must-have list

by Powell Gammill

PowerQuest's Drive Image is a backup and restore program that makes a file that is an exact image of your hard drive partitions. It can be stored on other storage devices, and can later be used to restore the partitions.

I had a few reasons to be eager to try out Drive Image 2.0. I had removed an old 540 megabyte hard drive from my computer, and planned to install it in my father's computer. And, with hard drives so inexpensive, it seemed more logical to purchase a second hard drive to mirror the first, rather than pay a higher price for tape backup.

My initial impression of Drive Image was not very favorable, but it grew on me with time. I now think it's a must-have utility.

## It's a DOS program

Drive Image is a DOS program, which initially soured my impression of the program. But, as pointed out in the documentation, advanced multitasking operating systems rely on open files on the hard drive that cannot reliably be backed up while in use. So using a DOS program to make partition images makes the most sense from a safety standpoint.

The documentation asserts that Drive Image will not work from either OS/2's DOS or Win-OS/2. I found this not to be true—it works well—but I cannot be sure that certain files which OS/2 may have open in a partition being copied are not skipped over, corrupted, or otherwise affected upon archiving. I therefore recommend using Drive Image in a dedicated DOS bootable partition, maintenance partition, or, as the manufacturer recommends, from a booted DOS floppy disk.

As a DOS program, Drive Image should be installed on a FAT formatted partition. My OS/2 system is on an HPFS formatted partition, though, and virtual FAT seem to work okay. According to the documentation, being a DOS program, Drive Image cannot safely operate beyond the BIOS 1,024 cylinder limit (i.e. on translated drives >8.4 gigabytes), which seems odd since

the program claims support for the FAT32X format.

Drive Image is smart enough that, when it is copying a partition, it only copies sectors that are occupied. That saves both archiving time and space on the image file. The program also offers two levels of compression, as options, to further reduce the size of the image file. Obviously, in order to create an image file of a partition you must have space in a different partition, roughly equivalent to half the size of the occupied space in which to create the image file. Drive Image supports FAT, FAT32, FAT32X (used by Windows 95 on hard drives >8.4 gigabytes), NTFS, and HPFS partition types.

My initial impression of Drive Image was not very favorable, but it grew on me with time. I now think it's a must-have utility.

Drive Image will automatically format an unformatted drive for you (though this may be for FAT only), as well as partition the drive if you desire.

Powerquest declares limited support for Netware, Linux, Unix, and other partition types, but copies such partitions sector by sector whether occupied or not, and does not resize the partition upon restoration. Internal disk location references are not modified on the destination drive, which may make these restored partitions unbootable, or inaccessible. Further, no technical support is provided for these operating systems.

As long as a computer is capable of being booted from a DOS floppy, using Drive Image on a floppy should allow any hard drive partitions to be copied, no matter the operating system. Whether a restored image of the partition will

work is regrettably dependent upon the operating system's file system.

## Not your father's hard disk

My father's computer has Warp 3 on a 256 MB, single FAT partitioned IDE. This was the source. The target was my old (but faster) 540 megabyte EIDE drive, which I installed as his D: drive.

I booted from a DOS floppy, then loaded Drive Image from a floppy. At this point I was pleased to see a simple menu displayed. Indeed, the reason why this program grew on me is that it is so simple that you can confidently operate the program without reading the manual. On-line help is available on each menu screen, which can assist in explaining some of the terminology used by the program.

With a couple of mouse clicks I had selected the Disk to Disk transfer option, marked the partition to copy and where to copy it to, and started the copying process. By the time I got back from a bathroom and refrigerator run the drive had been copied.

The ultimate test was swapping some jumpers, the IDE cable positions, and then trying to boot OS/2 from the 540 megabyte drive, now configured as C:. It worked without a hitch, and seems to be flawlessly functioning after a couple of weeks of moderate usage.

## Now for my system...

SCSI drive controllers must support software interrupt 13 for Drive Image to work with them. Most SCSI controllers do, and if you have been able to use FDISK to format any SCSI drive on the controller, then most likely your controller supports software INT 13.

Drive Image supports Jaz, Syquest, Zip and CD-R recordable drives, of which I only have the latter two. My first Zip test of Drive Image consisted of copying my OS/2 Warp 4 boot partition (which contains about 600 megabytes of files) to the Zip, while running from a Novell DOS7 booted partition on which Drive Image had been

Drive Image 2.0  
PowerQuest Corp.  
[www.powerquest.com](http://www.powerquest.com)  
MSRP: \$69

Drive Image Professional 2.0  
MSRP: \$695

installed. When using Boot Manager to boot to DOS, the DOS partition becomes the C: drive, and any other primary partition should be hidden. I was interested to see if Drive Image could "see" the OS/2 bootable partition. The program displayed all seven partitions on the drive, and with a click of the mouse I selected the Warp partition. I typed in a file name for the soon-to-be-created image file which included the drive letter for my Zip drive, and Drive Image automatically recognized the drive as a Zip drive.

After creating the image file on my fixed disk, it transferred it to the Zip drive in 100 megabyte chunks, pausing when one Zip disk was full to request the insertion of another Zip disk. While doing this, it named each 100MB file with consecutively numbered file names. A total of four zip disks was required, using maximum compression, to image the 600MB of files.

Just as easily, I was able to "restore" this partition to a bare HPFS partition on another drive, but I did not check to see whether it would boot. According to the manual, an image file can be split up into a maximum of 50 separate files (disks), and then later reassembled into a duplicate of the original partition.

CD-R recordable drives are not directly supported. Instead you go to Advanced Options to inform Drive Image what size chunks you want your image file broken into. Drive Image will then create the image file of the selected partition, and store it in subsequently numbered files of the size you have requested. You then exit the program, and use your CD-R burning program to create CDs of each of

the divided image files. This should work for any program storage media that can store DOS FAT files.

### **Mirror, mirror**

Last, I wanted to use Drive Image as a program which would "mirror" the hard drive information from one drive onto the other. You can readily do this from the menu, but lack of a command line interface regrettably prevents setting up a batch file that could be used to easily automate this process. According to the manual, Drive Image can store up to twelve partitions per image file. So, with some planning, lack of a command line may not be that big of an imposition. Drive Image allows overwriting the image storage file name, which would facilitate updating.

Tip: When creating a drive image, there is a comments section that can be stored with the file. I highly recommend fully describing what the partition contains, because drive letters can change. With multiple partitions imaged, you can quickly become unsure of which partition is contained in each image file.

Drive Image contains some of the tools of Powerquest's wonderful utility Partition Magic, including creating extended partitions, hiding and unhiding partitions, deleting partitions, and the ability to resize partitions. Password protecting image files against restoration is also an option for additional security.

Drive Image has a powerful image file editor that features lots of useful options, such as restoring individual files from the image file, like other backup programs allow. Inexcusably, this is exclusively a Windows 95 program. No DOS version is included.

A Windows 3.x wizard allows easy drive letter assignment changes for partitions. It will work with Win-OS/2, but it will not correct OS/2's FAT extended attributes. A Windows 3.x program is also included for moving an application from one

partition to another, and updating the INI files. A Windows 95/NT version makes Registry changes as well.

Overall the program really grows on you as you use it, but it is a DOS program, subject to DOS's limitations. If you use multiple operating systems, you probably have a good understanding of hard drive format and file systems, which is necessary to avoid scrambling data. If your hard drives are mostly of a single format type, Drive Image should work without much planning or consideration. Clearly the program is being updated with a Wombat future in mind.

Drive Image is not convenient enough to replace a hardware RAID/mirroring of hard drives, but it is a lot less expensive. The 2.0 version also comes closer than prior versions to replacing tape backup, but Drive Image still has a way to go in the convenience department for those who run non-Windows operating systems.

This program accomplishes Disk to Disk transfers very well indeed. If you are responsible for upgrading and maintaining numerous workstations, Drive Image 2.0 is a must-have utility, and an unlimited license professional version is available. ☺

# random bits New & improved

compiled by Esther Schindler

July was another busy month for the OS/2 software development community. This month's haul includes a few vertical market applications (including one from an extended attributes columnist), quite a few multimedia-related utilities, and several Internet tools.

## The Medicine Chest

The Medicine Chest, a customized software package for recording pediatric history and physical profiles on notebook computers, is available.

The Medicine Chest is ideal for documenting everything from well-baby office visits to making rounds at the hospital. It can be a critical component for lowering costs in the pediatric healthcare practice.

The Pediatric Profile Program takes advantage of all the distinct capabilities of IBM's OS/2 Warp, second to none in performance and reliability. Enabled for IBM Database 2 OS/2, usability and maintenance of the database has been greatly enhanced with the new tools and database administration facilities offered by the DB2. Increased DB2 performance is directly inherited by the Pediatric Program to increase productivity in the health care industry, and thus lead to better health care for children.

As an added benefit to reducing costs, OS/2 Warp comes with VoiceType Dictation. VoiceType Dictation reduces your workload by converting your speech to text. The Medicine Chest makes transcription obsolete, thus increasing accuracy, legibility, and productivity.

Imagine your entire clinical patient database at your fingertips for immediate reference in a 3.75-lb. package!

To learn more, visit [www.PediatricNetwork.com](http://www.PediatricNetwork.com) or contact John Wubbel ([jwubbel@www.PediatricNetwork.com](mailto:jwubbel@www.PediatricNetwork.com)).

## Domain Reporter/2

Domain Reporter/2 1.0 allows you to generate reports for printing and viewing of an IBM Workspace On-Demand/Warp Server domain.

Download the demo version from [www.cmpsol.com/software.html](http://www.cmpsol.com/software.html) or purchase the software at BMT Micro.

## PM123 1.0

PM123 is a high performance MPEG audio player for OS/2. It includes:

- WinAmp skin support
- Graphical sound equalizer (with preamplification and band mute)
- Sound visualization (spectrum analyzer, oscilloscope)
- Playlist Manager for easy playlist managing and browsing, improved
- HTTP support
- Recursive directory adding and improved drag'n'drop support
- Remote control

You can download PM123 from [www.teamos2.sci.fi/pm123](http://www.teamos2.sci.fi/pm123) or from Hobbes (<http://hobbes.nmsu.edu>). Registrations are handled via BMT Micro.

## SiteEater

SFS Software announced SiteEater 1.0, a pure Java software utility for retrieving, presenting, and archiving Internet Sites.

With SiteEater, you can download entire Web sites, or choose specific types of files such as programs, images, or videos. The utility works on FTP and HTTP, is extremely fast, fully automatic, and able to work on any Java supported operating system. The company has tested on Windows 95/98/NT, Linux, OS/2, Unix, and Mac OS.

SiteEater enhances SFS Software's popular DocFather Professional 2.0 software and gives you the ability to create a full-text search index for any Site on the Web.

SiteEater is \$49 for the single user license. It's available directly from SFS Software's Web Site at [www.sfs-software.com](http://www.sfs-software.com) and through a growing list of resellers, VARs, integrators and distributors. Fully functional "try before you buy" versions are available for download from SFS Software's Website at [www.sfs-software.com](http://www.sfs-software.com).

## MuPAD 1.4.0

MuPAD, a computer algebra system, is now available for OS/2.

MuPAD is a system for symbolic and numeric computation and mathematical programming.

Arithmetic functions include:

- exact integer and rational arithmetic
- floating point arithmetic with arbitrary precision
- complex and quaternion arithmetic with transcendental functions, expression manipulation, solving, calculus, numerical computations, set theory, linear algebra and optimization, number theory, algebraic structures, and polynomials.

The MuPAD language is easy to learn, with a Pascal-like syntax. It uses imperative, functional and object-oriented programming, and generates TeX output.

MuPAD 1.4.0 was ported to several platforms, including Windows 95 and NT, several Unix systems and Macintosh. The company added an OS/2 port recently. For many platforms, there is a comfortable window-based graphical user interface. But for OS/2, they made just a terminal version. This may change with future releases with enough commercial demand for a full-featured graphics version.

Moreover, the OS/2 version of MuPAD is currently unsupported. This means you get a free license for it. You may use it as you like, but there is no support, of course. You may also not re-distribute this version or refer to it in any software review without permission of SciFace. SciFace also reserves the right to withdraw this free license at any time.

Technical information specific to the OS/2 version can be found at: <ftp://ftp.mupad.de/MuPAD/distrib/os2/COPYING>

For more information, visit [www.sciface.com](http://www.sciface.com).

## **MIDI Station Sequencer updated**

MIDI Station Sequencer is a 16 channel, multitrack sequencer that uses the RTMIDI (Real-Time MIDI subsystem) to communicate with a MIDI keyboard.

It is designed to run on an OS/2 Warp 4 system. It allows a musician to record, playback, edit, loop, and quantize sequences on a track-by-track basis. By using the high-resolution timer (available in Warp 4) in concert with RTMIDI to playback and record, MIDI Station Sequencer provides a high level of timing accuracy unattainable in prior versions of the operating system.

New features include:

- Tempo map: Change tempos over the course of the sequence
- Meter map: Change time signatures over the course of the sequence
- MIDI delay module: Delay capabilities for your sequences
- Updated Mixer Module: Allows you to control the volume for each discrete track

Registration: \$25. Available at BMT Micro.

## **Pacman for OS/2**

The new OS/2 version of this popular game is at [www.chez.com/ccaissotti/jeuxos2a.htm](http://www.chez.com/ccaissotti/jeuxos2a.htm).

## **JSSearch**

A free OS/2 REXX program (JSSEARCH) generates the HTML for a Javascript base client side search engine. It's meant for people with smallish sites who don't want to have to pay for CGI access.

It is fairly configurable in how it looks and works. The author is waiting for feedback, good or bad.

Dennis Bareis, [db0@anz.com](mailto:db0@anz.com), [www.ozemail.com.au/~dbareis](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dbareis)

The Web site has "heaps of OS/2 and DOS freeware I've written" as well as source code and programmers links.

Examples include an HTML/REXX preprocessor, REXX compiler, and file generation via template.

## **WarpZip updated**

WarpZip v1.09 Zip file and OS/2 Packed file unarchiver. WarpZip

takes the work out of downloading software. WarpZip will handle the details from the first click in your browser to the archives' final resting place. Beneath WarpZip's pleasant interface you will find plenty of revolutionary and powerful functions that will save both time and effort and boost your productivity.

Requires: OS/2 Warp, REXX, InfoZip utilities. Registration: \$25, at BMT Micro.

## **Internet Gate updated**

Internet Gate for OS/2, Version 1.41, is a multiple proxy gate and firewall. It allows LAN users without Internet access to access the Internet through a single machine on the LAN connected to the Internet, with a dial-up modem/ISDN connection or an Ethernet card.

Registration cost varies. 5 user: \$75. Unlimited user: \$250. Also available in 10 and 25 user versions. At BMT Micro.

## **CoffeeShop**

CoffeeShop is a professional solution for Java development. It lets you create Java application, applets, servlets or JavaBeans components. CoffeeShop is cross-platform and runs in nearly any environment. Moreover, it is a by-product of itself.

CoffeeShop makes it easy. The intuitive, well designed user interface makes finding and locating the main features very fast. Even better, no special CoffeeShop training is required.

CoffeeShop always supports the latest Sun JDK or its ports on various platforms.

Key Features of CoffeeShop:

- Entirely written in Java
- CoffeeShop runs cross-platform in Windows, Unix, OS/2, and Linux.
- Includes an intelligent source code editor, which can colorize and remember nearly 2,800 Java related keywords.
- WYSIWYG Graphical User interface builder, with support for LayoutManagers and JFC (Swing components). Nearly any component can easily integrated in CoffeeShop's GUI builder.
- CoffeeShop's GUI builder and designer is highly scalable. Nearly 20 predefined visual components, an integration of IFC, Java-

aBeans, AFC and/or your own components and classes is extremely easy to implement.

- Integrated, powerful graphical debugger interface.
- CoffeeShop's integrated preprocessor enhances the power of Java and gives you the ability to create different versions of your projects.
- Integrated DocFather Java documentations for JDK and JFC (can be searched for keywords and titles).
- Project management with support for working on multiple projects at the same time.
- Fast compiler environment, which compiles only modified classes.

Price: \$89. Available at BMT Micro.

## **NovaBACKUP 6.0**

NovaStor Corporation released NovaBACKUP 6.0, the latest version of the company's popular data backup, restore, and disaster recovery software solution. NovaBACKUP 6.0 combines, in one package:

- NovaBACK, an award-winning backup program;
- NovaDISK, a top selling, disk-to-disk backup program, and
- NovaBOOT, a disaster recovery utility, in the event of a system crash.

NovaBACKUP 6.0 features updated virus scanning capabilities and new encryption technology for safer, cleaner and more reliable storage. Other new features include an improved scheduler, support for Tape Alert Specification and auto-setup for SCSI drives, and a faster NovaBOOT for improved disaster recovery. In addition, NovaBACKUP 6.0 includes support for Windows 98, and is available in seven languages on a single CD-ROM.

New features to the scheduler include an optional history log generation option and a status display of passed and failed tasks. Backup preferences may be easily customized by using control features including backup of "modified only" files, global include and exclude lists, wildcard options and more. NovaBACKUP 6.0 enables backup to a wide range of media including hard drives, removable

disk, tape drives, floppy drives, flopticals, Magneto Opticals, Iomega (excluding Ditto Max Drives), SyQuest, HP, ExaByte, Sony, and more.

The product supports a wide range of networks: NetWare, LAN-tastic, Windows for Workgroups, Windows NT and OS/2 Warp Server 3/4—and platforms including Windows 3.x/95/98/NT, DOS, and OS/2.

NovaBACKUP 6.0 comes complete with the latest virus scanning technology to scan files before they are backed up or restored. Any files that appear to be contaminated will be displayed in an error log for review. The product's powerful new encryption option ensures data secrecy by enabling users to encrypt their backups. Only users with the password can decrypt and restore the information.

NovaBACKUP 6.0 is now available on CD-ROM at authorized retailers and distributors. The product retails for a suggested list price of \$99. Upgrades are available via [www.novastor.com](http://www.novastor.com) at the Upgrade Central link for \$29.95 (plus shipping of media if necessary). Free demo versions of NovaBACKUP and other NovaStor products are available via modem from the BBS, FTP, or Web sites.

## Tyra/2

Tyra/2 is an OS/2 config.sys editor. With this PM application you can easily edit and save changes to your config.sys file. All the various and esoteric commands are presented in a logical format. Plus you don't have to worry about spelling and choosing the correct parameters. Just about everything is done with a mouse click. Also included is help for all commands, with a description of applicable parameters.

Registration: \$25. BMT Micro

## EcoSNAP

EcoSNAP for OS/2 detects the failure of production applications (i.e. SYS3175 errors). It gathers information about the failures, notifies interested parties of the failures, and helps speed the resolution of such failures—normally directing the programmer to the precise point of failure in the application's original source code.

EcoSNAP is intended for the large corporate client/server environment. A product of Compuware Corporation, EcoSNAP for OS/2 (formerly Fault-XPERT for OS/2) has been available for purchase since late 1995, and has a number of large corporate installations worldwide. For more information, contact [rick\\_papo@compuware.com](mailto:rick_papo@compuware.com).

## NetLookout updated

NetLookout 2.06 is an internet notifier for OS/2. NetLookout will watch Web, FTP and Gopher sites, and tell you when they change. You can configure individual sites for how often to check and how to notify you when the site changes. Import from Netscape, WebExplorer, Opera, FTP Browser, VxFTP, etc.

Registration: \$20. At BMT Micro.

## Task Buster 2.0

Task Buster 2.0 provides system information, such as running processes and threads. The new version, at [www.powerutilities.no](http://www.powerutilities.no), includes these new features:

- Specify the columns you want to watch.
- An option to save the information to a file.
- More system information is given.
- Shared memory tab was added.

Contact Jostein Ullestad at [jostein@powerutilities.no](mailto:jostein@powerutilities.no).

## Web Builder 1.0

Web Builder 1.0 is a native OS/2 HTML 3.x and 4.x editor with many advanced features, including table builders. It works with Netscape 2.02 for OS/2 and WebExplorer. You can find the software at [www.pacific-telefonix.com.au/download](http://www.pacific-telefonix.com.au/download)

## FtpServer

FtpServer is an FTP server (daemon) for OS/2. FtpServer offers a host of features, including a text mode setup program that allows you to configure the various options, manage users, etc.

Registration: \$20. Available at BMT Micro.

## Showtime updated

ShowTime/2 is a background changer and slide show viewer. It provides automatic cycling of background wallpaper or slide shows. Easy bitmap selection from diverse directories. Timer settings from one second to twenty-four hours, in one second increments. Run background changes or slide shows in order or random. Set up and save as many shows as you like. Run shows automatically at startup.

Registration: \$10. Available at BMT Micro.

## rlgBISF 1.0

rlgBISF 1.0 is an OS/2 shareware program to backup important system files. Features include the ability to quickly backup selected files (including CONFIG.SYS, AUTOEXEC.BAT, WIN.INI, OS2.INI, and OS2SYS.INI) to a user-specified drive and directory. Backup activities are logged. If the need arises, the backup can be quickly restored using a generated REXX program.

rlgBISF is a PM-based program written using Watcom's VX-REXX. It requires OS/2 2.1 or above with REXX installed and the VX-REXX runtime VROBJ.DLL v2.03 or above.

Download it from Hobbes at <http://hobbes.nmsu.edu/pub/os2/util/backup/rbisfv10.zip> or contact Robert Grover at [rgrover@idahopower.com](mailto:rgrover@idahopower.com).

## VyperHelp 1.0 prerelease

VyperHelp is a visual outliner and editor for creating online help for OS/2 systems. It generates IPF files, which can be compiled into OS/2-based HLP and INF files.

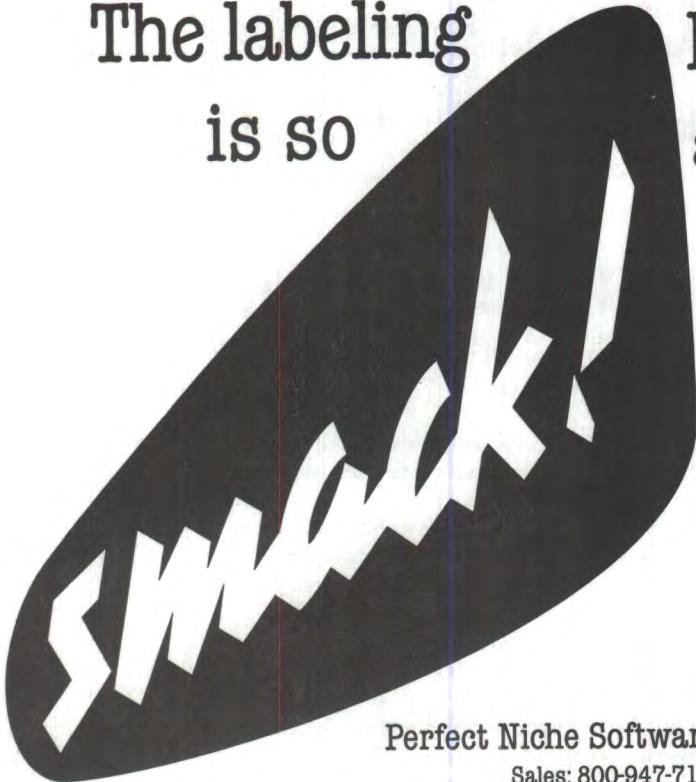
Features include WYSIWYG text editing with codes revealed, powerful outline tree controls, keyword/index support, and WinHelp (HPJ) import.

A prerelease of VyperHelp is provided for free use and distribution until October 31, 1998. It will soon be found as vhelp100.zip at Hobbes OS/2 archive and the OS2DF1 forum on CompuServe.

Email [mek@compuserve.com](mailto:mek@compuserve.com) for information. ☺

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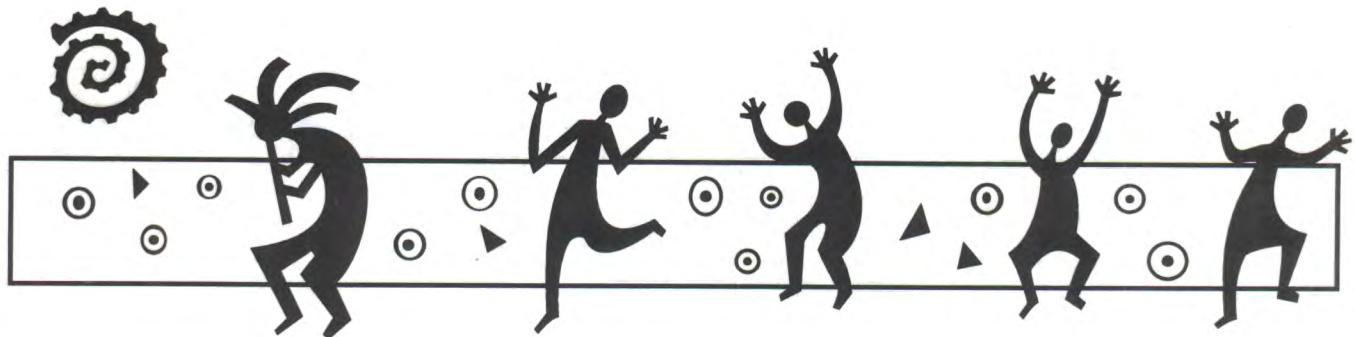
## THE **OS/2 SUPERSITE**

<http://www.os2ss.com>

- Over 2 gigabytes of OS/2 shareware and freeware
- Mailing lists such as OS2USER and WarpCast
- Home of several popular OS/2 web sites such as OS/2 e-Zine!, EDM/2, OS/2 Connect, Loren Bandiera's OS/2 News and Rumors Page, and Timur Tabi's New OS/2 User page.
- The OS/2 Discussion Forum
- Online shareware registration and commercial software purchasing

### Join the Supersite Members Club

Club members get special deals on commercial software and \$2.50 off every shareware application they register through BMT Micro. Members also get FTP access to the Supersite archive and space for their personal web page. See <http://www.os2ss.com/club/> for details.



## The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society is a computer user group dedicated to OS/2. We have been publishing our award-winning magazine, *extended attributes* since August of 1994, and we have members all over the world.

Yes, this is a user group publication, and that sometimes shows; however, that's also an advantage, since you get real-world feedback about OS/2 and OS/2 products from other users, not just jaded, cynical journalists.

How useful will it be to join the Phoenix OS/2 Society if you aren't in Arizona? We see the Phoenix OS/2 Society as something akin to the National Geographic Society or the Smithsonian; while most members only see a magazine, you're actually a member of a society, and can participate in its activities when you happen to be in the area.

Even without activities that take place in Phoenix, Society membership includes product discounts that alone could make membership worthwhile. Taking advantage of one such discount could easily save you the entire cost of membership, giving you a "free" subscription.

Plus, the Society is prominent in the computing community. We are *already* heard by IBM; they listen to what we say. Several IBM executives get *extended attributes*. They don't get it for the "club news"—they use it to learn what OS/2 users really care about. And they respond to what they read.

You're not just getting a magazine. You're getting a voice.

If you would like to continue to receive the magazine, fill out the membership card in the center



## Invites you to join

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